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MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1959

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L. Spencer Stephens,  
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt,  
Engineer, Surveyor & Chief  
Public Health Inspector.

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1959-60

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L. Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. Pratt, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.  
Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

W. R. Smith, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.  
Additional Public Health Inspector and Assistant Engineer & Surveyor.

E. J. Turner  
Housing Manager and Architectural Assistant

H. B. Hall  
Clerical Assistant

Miss S. M. Hall  
Shorthand Typist and Clerk

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1959

Public Health Department,  
1, The Tything,  
Worcester.

August, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the Martley Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

Consideration of the Vital Statistics shown in Section A indicates that the health of the population in the District remains very satisfactory. The death rate from all causes remains well below the National Average. The only disturbing figure this year is the number of stillbirths (9) which gives a high Stillbirth Rate and, together with the deaths in the first week of life, gives an exceptionally high Perinatal Mortality Rate. This may well be related to the consistently high Infant Mortality Rate for the District over the previous ten years. As I submitted a report to the Council on this subject last November, I have made a precis of the results, which are printed on pages 4 and 5. This does not really indicate a definite relationship between the high Infant Mortality Rate and substandard housing conditions (although there are still a large number to be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Programme); it does, however, point clearly to the undesirability of having expectant mothers and young infants living in temporary dwellings such as caravans and hop-pickers barracks.

A successful attempt was made to remove the occupants of one block of hop-picking accommodation which had been the source of trouble for two years by the service of Demolition Orders and it is hoped that all squatters will be dealt with in a similar manner. Unauthorised caravans also present difficulties as a fair number of travellers enter the District looking for seasonal agricultural work. It is to be hoped that the new legislation will effectively deal with this problem.

A summary of the Slum Clearance Programme during the five years from January 1955 - 1960 is shown on page 13. Twenty one houses have been demolished and twenty three closed, but a number of the latter are still occupied owing to the shortage of new dwellings. It is encouraging to note that 14 old peoples bungalows are being erected and more are being considered, but this will not materially affect the position as the target was 220 demolitions over a period of ten years.

It will be observed from the table on page 15 that very few cases of Infectious Disease occurred during the year with the exception of Measles. 358 cases of this disease were notified, which was in line with the biennial incidence of the disease throughout the Country but considerably more than usual. Fortunately there were no deaths.

I have for the first time included full details of the Diphtheria immunisation state of the child population (page 8). This shows that the Immunity Index is 40% which is far too low (over 60% being essential to guard against an outbreak of the disease). It will be observed that many children were immunised more than five years ago and are not included in the calculations. For this reason I strongly recommend a booster dose at 10 years old in addition to the usual doses in infancy and at 5 years.



Very satisfactory progress has been made with the second and third parts of the Water Scheme. The sewage works at Astley is now in operation. Further details are included under the appropriate sections of the Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. Spencer Stephens.

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Rural District of Martley, comprising 52,823 acres is predominantly agricultural in character and lies to the West of the City of Worcester. The River Teme runs through the District dividing it into two parts. The chief industry is agriculture and the District is one of the most important fruit and hop growing areas in the country. Each year the hop picking season attracts large numbers of people to the District. These come mainly from the Black Country.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

Acre in Acres ... 52,823

Number of dwellinghouses (31st March 1960)  
according to Rate Books ... 3,890

Rateable Value (1st April 1959) ... £89,694

Sum represented by one penny rate.. ... £368. 11. 2.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1959) 12,100

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate..	99	94	193
Illegitimate	3	9	12
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5.8
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population			17.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period			16.5

#### Still Births

Legitimate..	4	5	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			42.0
Rate per 1,000 England and Wales total live and still births			20.7

#### Deaths

From all causes...	77	46	123
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			9.9
Rate for England and Wales ...			11.6

#### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate..	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (total)			24.4
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)			26.0
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)			Nil
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales			22.0

#### Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate..	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			19.5
Neonatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales			15.8
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	-	-	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil

Analysis of Infant Deaths and Still Births 1949 - 1958

Table I    -    Infant Mortality Rate - per 1,000 related live births

Year	No. of Deaths	Rate for	
		Martley R.D.	England & Wales
1949	8	35.7	32.4
1950	4	21.05	29.6
1951	5	25.25	29.7
1952	8	38.0	27.6
1953	7	33.65	26.8
1954	8	45.7	25.4
1955	4	23.8	24.9
1956	9	53.2	23.8
1957	6	29.0	23.1
1958	6	36.1	22.5
1949-58	65	34.1	26.5
1959	5	24.4	22.0

Table II    -    Stillbirths per 1,000 Total live and still births

Year	No. of Deaths	Rate for	
		Martley R.D.	England & Wales
1949	4	17.8	22.7
1950	5	25.6	22.6
1951	3	14.9	23.0
1952	5	23.5	22.7
1953	2	9.5	22.4
1954	4	22.4	23.5
1955	3	17.8	23.1
1956	4	23.1	23.0
1957	6	28.1	22.5
1958	4	23.5	21.6
1949-58	40	20.6	22.7
1959	9	42.0	20.7



Table III - Infant Deaths by type of Housing

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per</u> <u>1,000</u>
Council Houses	14	29
Categories 1 & 2 (excluding Council Houses)	26	13
Categories 1 & 2 (including Council Houses)	40	16
Categories 3,4 & 5 (excluding caravans & barracks)	14	13
Categories 3,4 & 5 (including caravans & barracks)	25	23
Caravans or Barracks	11	344

Note:- Rates are calculated on average numbers of types of dwellings between 1949 and 1958.

A full report has already been submitted to the Council in an endeavour to explain the reason for the high Infant Mortality Rate in the District over the past ten years. This was submitted to the Department of Medical Statistics at Birmingham University together with certain housing figures, as it was considered there might be a relationship between the high figure and the poorer standard of houses awaiting slum clearance. Although there was little difference between the relative number of deaths in Council houses and private houses (Categories 3, 4 & 5), the numbers in caravans or hop-picking barracks (used semi-permanently) were found to be disproportionately large. The fact that 11 of these 65 deaths were related to such living conditions condemns these temporary dwellings as totally unsuitable for expectant mothers and young infants.

It will be noted that the Stillbirth Rate for 1959 is the highest recorded. Had these children lived they might have represented the additional infant deaths shown in previous years. This shows the importance of using Perinatal Mortality Rates (i.e. Stillbirths plus deaths in the first week of life) and in fact 4 of the 5 infant deaths for 1959 occurred in the first week.

<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Martley</u>	<u>England &amp; Wales</u>
1949-58 (10 year average)	39.4	37.2
1959	60.7	34.2

Consideration must always be given to the cause of death. This is generally more difficult to determine in the case of stillbirths, but premature delivery, toxæmia, and lack of adequate antenatal care all played their part. Poor housing conditions could have been responsible but there is no evidence to indicate that obstetrical interference did so.

Causes of Death as Classified by the Registrar General

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	-	-
Syphilitic Disease.. ... ..	-	-
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.. ... ..	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis. ... ..	-	-
Measles. ... ..	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	-	-
Cancer of Stomach... ..	4	2
Cancer of Lung ... ..	2	-
Cancer of Breast ... ..	-	2
Cancer of Uterus ... ..	-	-
Cancer of all other sites. ... ..	9	2
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	-	1
Diabetes ... ..	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	11	10
Coronary disease, angina.. ... ..	11	5
Hypertension with heart disease. ... ..	-	3
Other heart disease. ... ..	11	5
Other circulatory disease. ... ..	1	-
Influenza ... ..	2	-
Pneumonia ... ..	4	1
Bronchitis ... ..	5	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis... ..	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion. ... ..	-	-
Congenital malformations.. ... ..	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	6	7
Motor vehicle accidents... ..	2	-
All other accidents. ... ..	1	2
Suicide. ... ..	3	-
Homicide and operations of war.. ... ..	-	-
	<hr/> 77 <hr/>	<hr/> 46 <hr/>



## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### (a) Laboratory Services

Laboratory services are provided at laboratories situated at the County Buildings and the Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

#### (b) Ambulance Service

This service is provided by the County Council. The ambulance station which serves the District is situated in Worcester. The Hospital Car Service, manned in most cases by volunteers, is used to supplement the ambulance service.

Patients suffering from infectious disease are conveyed to hospital in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

#### (c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

This service is provided by the County Council. In most instances in the Rural District this work is done by the District Nurse/Midwife, who is also the Health Visitor. Five District Nurse/Midwives are working in the District full-time and two part-time.

#### (d) Hospitals

The District is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Kidderminster.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases can be admitted to hospitals at Worcester, Bromsgrove and Stourport.

Sanatoria for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis are situated in Worcester, Malvern and Knightwick.

#### (e) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.

The District is served by the following clinics:-

##### Ante-Natal Clinics

Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport.

Open every Tuesday in the month at 1.30 p.m.

Coventry Street, Kidderminster.

Open every Monday in the month at 2 p.m.

##### Infant Welfare Clinics

Parish Hall, Hallow

Open on the second and fourth Thursday in the month at 2 p.m.

Club Room, Bell Inn, Broadheath

Open on the first and third Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Chantry School, Martley

Open on second Wednesday in the month at 2 p.m.

Village Hall, Alfrick

Open on the third Friday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Parish Hall, Clifton-on-Teme

Open on the second Tuesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Leigh

Open on the second Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

### Infant Welfare Clinics

Village Hall, Great Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every other month at 2.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Little Witley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every other month at 3.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Shrawley

Open on the fourth Tuesday every other month at 2 p.m.

Parish Room, Holt

Open on the fourth Tuesday every other month at 3 p.m.

### (f) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough can be carried out, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor or at the County Council clinics. It is now standard practice to offer combined immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough at 4-6 months old and a booster dose at 5 years.

The following inoculations were done during the year:-

#### Diphtheria Immunisation (including Whooping Cough)

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year - 141 (197)

Number of children who received reinforcing doses during the year - 89 (117)

### Immunity Index

Age on 31.12.59 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1959	1-4 1955- 1958	5-9 1950- 1954	10-14 1945- 1949	UNDER 15 TOTAL
A. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1955 - 1959	39	513	500	89	1141
B. Number of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1954 or earlier			327	852	1179
C. Estimated mid-year child population (if known)	2904				

Immunity Index 100/A/C

$$\frac{1141}{2904} \times 100 = 40\%$$

### Vaccination

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year 119 (147)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year - 4 (15)

\* Figures in brackets show the numbers for the previous year.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948. SECTION 47, & AMENDMENT ACT 1951

These sections place on district Medical Officers of Health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of persons who are in need of care and attention. No statutory action was necessary during 1959.



## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supply

Steady progress was made with the completion of Part II of the Comprehensive Water Scheme during the first half of 1959. The 110,000 gallon reservoir on Abberley Hill was completed and grassed over. Additional work had to be carried out as small leaks were discovered on testing but, shortly after, it was possible to fill, chlorinate and connect to the supply mains. Main laying was completed throughout the parishes of Abberley, Great Witley and Hillhampton and over 100 tappings made for private houses. Pumping is of course necessary from Redmarley Booster Station to fill the reservoir.

In view of the imminent formation of the proposed North-West Worcestershire Water Board, it had been decided to proceed with Part III of the Scheme as soon as possible and in fact approval had been granted by the Ministry and the contract signed before the appointed day (1st July, 1959). Work was commenced at the end of August and by the end of the year a considerable amount of mainlaying had been carried out from Rushwick over the River Teme to Bransford and on to Ednoll, Leigh. A provisional programme was worked out with the contractors in an endeavour to persuade them to use four gangs on the work which entailed the laying of some 49 miles of mains as follows:-

Section No. 1 - From Rushwick to Bransford and Ednoll.

Section No. 2 - From Knightsford Bridge to Suckley and through Lulsley to Alfrick and Longley Green and also to Leigh and Leigh Sinton.

Section No. 3 - From Hundred House through Shelsley Beauchamp, Shelsley Kings and Shelsley Walsh to Clifton-on-Teme and the Sapey area.

Section No. 4 - Extensions to Part I and II in the central area.

In actual fact the Order for the formation of the North-West Worcestershire Water Board was deferred due to a claim by Kidderminster Corporation for differential water charges and negotiations are still in progress.

An application was made by Stourport-on-Severn Urban District for a supply of water from the Astley borehole and an agreement was made for the supply of some 10,000 gallons a day. In view of this some difficulty was experienced with supplying water for irrigation purposes and the Ockeridge reservoir reached a very low level on several occasions. These technical difficulties were overcome however and it was agreed that no restrictions should be placed on applications for such purposes unless consumption rose considerably.

The Council supported opposition raised by the Local Authority Undertakers in North-West Worcestershire against a proposal by the South Staffordshire Water Company to sink boreholes at Cookley. It was considered that the abstraction of some six million gallons of water a day (as proposed) would materially affect the existing boreholes in the Kidderminster area. The Minister has, however, approved the proposals on the grounds that not more than four and a half million gallons a day be abstracted and considers that this will not materially affect other Undertakings.



## 2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme

The Astley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme was completed during the year. The works are situated beyond Longmorehill Farm with the final effluent discharging into a brook leading into the River Severn. An ejector station was necessary and erected at least  $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile away within the curtilage of the Water Works, but this has made supervision easier and the cottages on the site have been catered for.

The only other improvements to sewage works plant have been carried out at Alfrick where new distributor arms were fitted, and at Martley where pumping equipment of larger capacity was installed.

Serious consideration was given to the provision of a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the parish of Grimley, including the village of Sinton Green. Various sites for the disposal works were considered but none of them were very suitable due to lack of dilution available in the local water courses. Eventually it was decided by the Consulting Engineer that it would be far more satisfactory to provide a joint scheme with the parish of Hallow. The village of Hallow has an existing system of sewers draining to a disposal works near the Laugherne Brook and it is proposed to enlarge these works. Other considerations in favour of dealing with Sinton Green sewerage at Hallow are:-

- (a) The capital cost would be comparable with that of a scheme with disposal works in the Sinton Green area.
- (b) The additional cost of pumping would be less than the cost of proper maintenance of a separate sewage disposal works.
- (c) The dilution of the effluent in the Laugherne Brook would be more satisfactory.
- (d) It would be possible to reconstruct the Hallow works, which is already overloaded and thus improve the facilities available for this parish.

At present the Scheme is awaiting Ministry approval.

PARISH	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g. wells, springs		Sewerage and Sewage Disposal				
	Direct to Houses	By means of a stand-pipe	No. of Dwelling houses	Popu-lation supplied	No. of Dwelling houses	Popu-lation supplied	No. of Dwellings connected to public sewer	Popu-lation served	No. of Houses with		
									Pails	Septic tanks etc.	Private install-ations.
Abberley	75	227	-	-	80	245	28	92	61	65	1
Alfrick	-	-	-	-	140	428	17	55	68	50	5
Astley	131	400	4	12	216	661	26	91	235	82	8
Bransford	3	10	-	-	84	257	-	-	57	30	-
Broadbeath	157	480	10	30	135	413	85	273	131	78	8
Broadwas	38	115	4	12	49	150	-	-	45	41	5
Clifton-on-Teme	92	232	8	24	29	90	75	230	40	13	1
Cothoridge	40	122	2	6	28	86	14	58	21	24	11
Dodderham	23	70	6	18	40	123	-	-	42	25	2
Grinley	80	245	4	12	98	300	-	-	103	72	2
Hellon	250	765	3	9	106	324	261	800	65	24	9
Hillhampton	6	18	2	6	24	73	20	64	16	10	3
Holt	56	173	-	-	64	196	-	-	66	31	-
Kenswick	-	-	-	-	11	34	-	-	3	8	-
Knightwick	-	-	-	-	38	117	-	-	31	7	-
Leigh	4	12	-	-	301	920	30	94	211	60	4
Lulcley	-	-	-	-	40	123	-	-	27	13	-
Martley	149	456	4	12	143	437	59	181	167	63	7
St. John County	243	744	4	12	65	198	269	830	15	26	2
Lower Sapey	-	-	-	-	50	153	8	26	30	11	1
Shelsley Beauchamp	-	-	-	-	58	177	-	-	42	15	1
Shelsley Kings	-	-	-	-	68	211	-	-	58	9	1
Shelsley Walsh	-	-	-	-	13	39	-	-	11	2	-
Shrawley	56	171	18	54	72	222	-	-	111	34	1
Suckley	-	-	-	-	160	496	19	58	106	34	1
Wichenford	71	217	-	-	54	165	35	108	60	30	-
Witley, Great	62	190	-	-	61	187	36	114	47	38	2
Witley, Little	38	116	-	-	21	67	16	52	27	16	-
Total	1574	4813	69	207	2248	6892	998	3126	1901	911	81



## SECTION D

### HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out in the District during the year:-

#### Number of new houses erected during the year

(1)	by the Local Authority ... ..	Nil
(2)	by other bodies or persons ... ..	32

#### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

(1)(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts).	38
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose..	55
(2)(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under One above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. ...	3
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose..	3
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	8
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	29

#### 2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... ..	29
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#### 3. Action under Statutory Powers

A	<u>Proceedings under Sections 9 &amp; 10 of the Housing Act 1957</u>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	by owners ... ..	Nil
	by local authority in default of owners ...	Nil
B	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	by owners ... ..	Nil
	by local authority in default of owners ...	Nil



C	<u>Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 &amp; 23 of the Housing Act 1957</u>							
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..							7
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..							1
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted. ... ..							2
D	<u>Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957</u>							
(1)	Number of separate dwellings, parts of a dwelling or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..							1
(2)	Number of separate dwellings, parts of a dwelling or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling or room having been rendered fit.. ... ..							Nil

4. Housing Act, 1957 (Part IV) - Overcrowding

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of this year	} Not known
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein... ..	
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases... ..	33
	(iii)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved. ... ..	Nil

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

(As shown in Appendix to Ministry of Housing & Local Government Returns)

1/1/55 - 31/12/59

<u>Year</u>	<u>Demolished</u>	<u>Closed</u>	<u>Total</u>
1955	4	4	8
1956	8	3	11
1957	6	7	13
1958	2	6	8
1959	1	3	4
	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>44</u>

# SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Few changes have taken place in this field during the year. Most of the villages are becoming more and more dependent on delivery services from the City or adjoining towns. Meat inspection remains unaltered and the meat slaughtered at both premises is of a high quality. From the figures shown below one cannot help thinking that the work would more advantageously be carried out centrally. No definite decision has been made yet under the Slaughterhouses Act 1958 and much depends on the facilities which Worcester City are able to provide should the Slaughterhouse owners fail to bring their premises up to the standard required. Further details are available on page 35 of the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

The following table shows the amount of meat inspected:-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	100	-	-	463	123	-
Number inspected	100	-	-	463	123	-
<u>All disease except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	28	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.0	-	-	6.2	4.8	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	2	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.0	-	-	-	1.6	-
Cysticercosis	-	-	-	1.9	-	-



# SECTION F

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable disease which occurred in the District during the year:-

	Under							Age un-known	Total cases notified
	1	1 -	3 -	5 -	10 -	15 -	25 -	65 -	
1. Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	6	3	-	-	-	10
3. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid.B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	4	2	2	-	-	2	5	15
7. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Measles (ex. Rubella)	6	44	62	201	40	2	2	-	358
10. Whooping Cough	2	-	4	10	-	-	-	-	16
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Dysentery	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	3
13. Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
14. Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1959

Age Period	New cases				Deaths +			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

+ Compiled from the Tuberculosis Register and Local Registrars' Death Returns

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at the end of the year

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Annual Totals
	M	F	M	F	
1950	33	27	15	18	93
1951	34	28	16	18	96
1952	37	33	13	15	98
1953	34	36	12	13	95
1954	27	41	11	11	90
1955	31	42	9	11	93
1956	36	41	9	13	99
1957	32	33	4	7	76
1958	26	31	4	5	66
1959	32	31	4	5	72

## B.C.G. Vaccination

Worcestershire County Council operate a scheme for the preventive inoculation of all children leaving school. The majority of parents agree to have their children done, and it may be said that the scheme has met with considerable success. This is a valuable protective measure against tuberculosis.

### MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

It is a duty of every local authority to provide (or make suitable alternative arrangements) for the accommodation of persons who have died in their district from other than natural causes. These cases come under the jurisdiction of the Coroner who may order a post mortem or hold an inquest.

In past years such cases have been taken to Droitwich, Stourport or Worcester. As the result of the Droitwich Borough Council giving notice that their mortuary would have to be closed as unsuitable, consideration was given to the provision of accommodation at the Red House, Martley.

A very satisfactory mortuary has now been provided by the conversion of suitable buildings, and consists of a waiting room, viewing room and mortuary room with table, wash basins and suitable drainage to sewer.

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937

## Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	4	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	35	12	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	-	-	-	-
Total.....	39	16	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2).....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3).....	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).....	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
(a) Insufficient.....	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work).....	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	-	-	-



Part VIII of the Act

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel ) Making etc., ) Cleaning ) and ) Washing	2	2	-	-	-	-

MARTLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ENGINEER, SURVEYOR & CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,  
1, The Tything,  
Worcester.

October, 1960

To the Rural District Council of Martley

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the thirteenth Annual Report on the work of my Department as related to the administration of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

The completion of Part II of the mains water scheme has provided a supply to two-thirds of the Council's area and, as will be seen from the table on page 28, 70 per cent of the premises adjacent to the mains laid are now connected. Considering that the scheme has been in operation only 2½ years, this figure is remarkably high and shows the great need which existed prior to 1957 for a pure supply of water.

Part III of the scheme having been started during the year, the provision of mains water to the remaining parishes progresses steadily. As mains in each parish are completed and tested they are brought into use, thus affording supplies where needed urgently and also gaining revenue for the Council.

During the year the Council were able, and pleased, to assist Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council by providing water in bulk to improve the supply to a built-up area in that district.

Steady progress in the improvement of private cottages by discretionary grants has continued, about 5 per cent of the houses in the district now having been dealt with. There are signs that this scheme is becoming better known and the availability of mains water has prompted many owners to consider the provision of full modern amenities. Progress in this field would be even greater if more builders could be found who were prepared to undertake this type of work; in several cases many builders have had to be approached before one firm estimate could be obtained; when an estimate is accepted, months of delay often occur before the work is commenced. This, together with the shortage of bricks and other materials, leads to a feeling of frustration and has even led to the abandonment of particular jobs.

I should like to express my appreciation of the assistance and consideration afforded to me by the Chairmen and members of the various Committees.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

A. L. PRATT.

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Public Health  
Inspector.



# 1. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING AND BUILDING BYELAWS

The duties delegated to the Council by the County Council under the Town and Country Planning Acts continued to be carried out. Three cases of "difference of opinion" between the Council and the County Planning Officer relating to residential development at Broadheath Common, Holt and a small caravan site at Shelsley Kings were considered by the County Planning Committee and were resolved in favour of the County Planning Officer in the case of the first two and in favour of this Council in the case of the third application.

The following appeals against decisions of the Council were made during the year and in every case, except the last one, the Minister dismissed the appeal:-

- (a) Residential development, Holt Heath.
- (b) Holiday caravan site, Shrawley.
- (c) Residential development, Broadwas.
- (d) Residential caravan site, Astley.
- (e) Holiday caravan site, Astley.
- (f) Residential development, Broadheath Common.
- (g) Residential development, Great Witley.
- (h) Change of use, Broadheath (approved for a temporary period)

Seven cases of unauthorised development were reported; in three cases formal applications were later submitted and in four cases informal action resulted in the unauthorised use ceasing.

Details of applications to develop are given in tabular form below:-

	Plans for new con- struction	Outline appli- cations	Change of use of land and buildings	Total
Brought forward from 1958	5	6	1	12
Received during 1959	115	60	8	183
Total applications	120	66	9	195
Applications approved	109	32	5	146
Applications refused	7	20	2	29
Applications withdrawn	-	5	-	5
Applications outstanding	4	9	2	15
Total	120	66	9	195

In addition, 21 applications for renewals of temporary planning permissions were issued most of which related to residential and holiday caravans on single sites.

Two major developments with which the Planning Committee were actively concerned were the siting of a secondary school at Martley and mineral workings at Church Farm, Grimley.



Applications under Building Byelaws

Brought forward from 1958	-	2	
Received during 1959	-	145	
			147
Applications approved	-	144	
Applications refused	-	1	
Applications withdrawn	-	1	
Applications outstanding	-	1	
			147

2. HOUSING

Provision of Housing Accommodation

	Council Houses	Private Houses		Total
		Subsidy	Others	
No. of houses under construction 1.1.59	-	-	20	20
No. of houses completed & occupied during 1959	2	-	32	34
No. of houses under construction 31.12.59	-	-	24	24

(a) By the Council

The only housing accommodation provided by the Council during the year was a pair of bungalows converted from existing buildings at Martley.

During the year it was decided to erect 14 single-bedroom bungalows in the following parishes:-

Bransford	- 6
Martley	- 4
Great Witley	- 2
Astley	- 2

It is hoped to move old people from underoccupied Council houses into these bungalows and to utilise the houses thus released for the rehousing of people from substandard dwellings. The rents of these bungalows are proposed to be in the region of 15 shillings per week, any difference between this sum and the economic rent is to be made up out of the surplus balance of the Housing Revenue Account.

A revision of the list of applicants for Council houses was carried out in February and the number on the register at that time was 116.

(b) By Private Enterprise

32 new private houses were completed during the year; 7 of this number completed a large private estate of 146 houses and most of the remainder were built on single sites in various parts of the District.

The following table shows the units of accommodation provided during the past twelve years:-

Year	Council Houses	Private Houses				Total
		Min. of Works Licence	Subsidy	Private	Conversions	
1948	51	-	-	25	8	84
1949	21	-	-	11	-	32
1950	34	1	4	12	2	53
1951	35	2	3	3	4	47
1952	6	2	9	7	8	32
1953	36	4	2	21	-	63
1954	34	1	1	32	1	69
1955	36	39	1	6	3	85
1956	14	-	1	55	3	73
1957	-	-	-	57	3	60
1958	-	-	1	61	-	62
1959	2	-	-	32	3	37
Total	269	49	22	322	35	697

Rent Act, 1957

There were no certificates of disrepair issued during the year. Contrary to general opinion when this Act was first introduced, very few landlords are making use of the provisions of this legislation.

Improvement and Conversion Grants

The table given overleaf shows that the number of applications for grants was exactly the same as received in the preceding year. Difficulty was experienced by many applicants in obtaining estimates from builders and this has reduced the number of completed dwellings during the year.



The numbers of individual dwellings forming the subject of formal applications since 1950, together with the number completed, are given below:-

Year	Rec'vd	With-drawn	Refused	Approved	Out-standing	Completed	Amount of Grant £
1950	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1951	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
1952	1	-	1	-	-	1	299
1953	10	4	1	5	-	-	-
1954	21	-	1	17	-	11	2,920
1955	41	5	3	36	-	29	7,372
1956	36	-	1	33	2	22	5,102
1957	35	-	2	30	3	32	8,304
1958	41	-	1	40	-	29	6,597
1959	41	-	1	40	-	51	13,119
Total	228	9	12	202	5	175	43,713

Average Grant per house - £255.

Average approved expenditure per house - £568.

The total cost to the Council of completed improvements to 175 houses, based on 25% of the grants given, is £12,886 or £74 per house.

The applications for grants to individual dwellings approved by the Council since 1950 have been analysed to show the occupation of the dwellings, i.e. whether owner/occupied or tenanted, and the amount of work carried out as reflected by the cost and this information is shown in the table below:-

Approved Applications for Grants

Occupation	No.	Approved expenses per dwelling		
		Under £400	£400-£800	Over £800
Owner/Occupier	90	33	39	18
Tenant	112	39	52	21
Total	202	72	91	39

Standard Grants

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, introduced the new standard grant designed to provide limited amenities to all types of houses. During the six monthly period from the commencement of the Act, only three applications were received and all were approved.

So far, this grant has not engendered much enthusiasm amongst property owners, probably due to the fact that no specific payment is available for the provision of sewage disposal by septic tank, an item which is usually the most costly in schemes of improvement to rural cottages.



### Council House Maintenance and Repair

The revised policy of repair and maintenance was continued during the year and resulted in a slightly increased credit balance in the Housing Revenue Account. As the balance on the Housing Repairs Account also increased it was decided to utilise some of this balance on increasing the painting programme for the year in an endeavour to hasten the aim of a five year painting programme.

External decoration was carried out during the year on the following sites:-

Stourport Road, Great Witley	7
Suffolk Lane, Abberley	8
Fieldbrook, Abberley	2
Pitchards Close, Lower Sapey	8
Bungalows, Shelsley Beauchamp	6
Yew Tree Cottages, Hillhampton	4
Pound Meadow, Shrawley	2
Rectory Lane, Shrawley	6
New Inn Lane, Shrawley	6
Dick Brook, Astley	2
Grange Road, Broadheath	20
Winsgrave, Leigh	8
Newhouse, Bransford	7
Weston Hill, Broadwas	4
Commonfields, Broadwas	2
Darbys Green, Doddenham	6
Rectory Bungalows, Suckley	4
Malvern View Bungalows, Wichenford	4
Council Houses, Crown East	4
Wilderness Cottages, Shelsley Kings	4
Boxley Cottages, Wichenford	2
Bungalows, Alfrick	3
Upper House, Alfrick	6
Abingdons, Wichenford	4
Queen's Estate, Wichenford	8
Jury Lane, Martley	18
The Berrow, Martley	2
Horne Lane, Martley	2
Willow Lane, Martley	4
	<hr/>
	163
	<hr/>

Electricity became available to the Shelsley Walsh site and the houses were wired and connected to this supply. All the houses owned by the Council now have a supply of mains electricity.

During the year sub-committees were appointed by the Housing Committee to visit the Council's housing sites and tours of inspection were made during the summer months. Generally speaking the condition of the houses and gardens was considered to be very satisfactory.

As a first stage to modernisation of the pre-war Council houses, sink taps were provided to eight houses at Ridleys Cross, Astley.

### Re-housing

During the year 25 lettings of Council houses were made as compared with 15 in 1958 and 17 in 1957. Of these lettings, 18, or 72 per cent, were made to families recommended on public health grounds for the following reasons:-

<u>Medical</u>	<u>Overcrowding</u>	<u>Structurally Defective Houses</u>	<u>Slum Clearance</u>
-	9	8	1

No house was allocated specifically to a tuberculosis patient.

### Slum Clearance

Details of properties dealt with are contained in Section D of the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Little progress was made during the year owing to the Council's policy of restricting the building of new houses. As reported previously, the Council decided to erect fourteen old persons bungalows and it is hoped to accommodate, directly or indirectly, fourteen slum clearance cases by this means. The rents proposed to be charged for these bungalows will be uneconomic even after taking into consideration the full slum clearance subsidy and so, to keep the rent down to a level which old aged pensioners can afford, a further subsidy from the Housing Revenue Account will have to be made. This factor will naturally restrict the number of bungalows which can be built and thus reduce the number of houses which can be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Programme.

### 3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The maintenance of all sewers and treatment works has continued to be carried out by a mobile staff of two men. Generally, the condition of all works and the quality of the effluents has been satisfactory with the exception of the Hallow works which are grossly overloaded.

As described in the report of the Medical Officer of Health, it is proposed to replace these works to cope with the increased flow of sewage from Hallow and also with the sewage pumped from a new scheme to be carried out at Sinton Green, Grimley.

Treatment works of varying sizes are now in operation at:-

Abberley	Cotheridge	Sapey Pitchard
Alfrick	Hallow	Suckley
Astley	Holt	Wichenford
Broadheath	Martley	Witley, Great
Clifton-on-Teme	Lower Wick	Witley, Little



In addition, over 50 septic tanks or cesspits deal with the drainage from small Council estates.

The following alterations and additions have been made during the year:-

Astley - The new works at Astley were put into operation in December and two Council housing estates connected to the new scheme immediately.

Alfrick, Martley and Wichenford - Improvements were made to the pumping arrangements at these small works during the year.

#### House Drainage

The following new drainage installations were approved and installed during the year:-

	<u>New Houses</u>	<u>Existing Houses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Septic Tanks	13	38	51
Connections to public sewer	21	34	55
Connections to private treatment plants	1	3	4
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Total	35	75	110
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

The mechanical cesspool emptiers owned by Droitwich R.D.C. and Stourport U.D.C. were hired frequently during the year; septic tanks to 72 private houses and settlement tanks to 28 treatment plants on Council housing estates were emptied during the year; in the former case the cost was re-charged to the owners or occupiers of the property.

A table showing the number of houses connected to the public sewers, etc., in each parish is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

#### 4. WATER SUPPLY

##### Private Supplies

A shortage of drinking water to some private premises occurred during the latter part of the year, the area most affected being at Old Storridge, Alfrick. Arrangements were made to carry water to the affected areas and this was continued for several weeks.

34 samples from wells and springs were submitted for examination of which 13 were unsatisfactory bacteriologically and 8 were unsatisfactory chemically.



### Public Supplies

Details of the number of houses supplied from public mains are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health and these are analysed in the table below:-

#### Mains Water Supply - Provision to Premises - 31.12.59

Parish	Houses in Parish						Metered Supplies	
	Total 31.12.59	Adjacent to mains	Connected to mains 31.12.58	Connected to mains 31.12.59	Totals		Busi- ness use	Agricult- ural use
	A	B			as % of A	as % of B		
Abberley	156	122	-	75	48	61	5	7
Astley	353	250	88	135	38	54	11	21
Broadheath	303	269	137	167	55	62	6	16
Broadwas	92	76	37	42	46	55	3	7
Clifton-on-Teme	130	101	100	100	80	100	6	7
Cotheridge	71	62	35	40	56	65	-	6
Doddenham	70	46	27	29	41	63	3	1
Grimley	183	135	60	84	47	62	6	11
Hallow	361	336	226	253	70	75	13	18
Hillhampton	33	20	-	8	24	40	-	2
Holt	121	77	45	56	46	72	4	9
Martley	298	212	98	153	51	72	9	11
St. John County	313	304	227	247	80	81	7	11
Shrawley	148	113	57	74	50	65	3	13
Wichenford	126	110	49	71	56	65	3	22
Gt. Witley	124	93	-	62	50	66	5	2
Lt. Witley	60	50	27	38	63	76	1	6
	2942	2376	1213	1634	56	70	85	170

Percentage of total premises in Parishes adjacent to mains - 80

Percentage of total premises in District connected to mains  
water supply- 42

Monthly Pumping - 1959  
(in thousands of gallons)

	<u>Astley</u>	<u>Clifton</u>	<u>Total</u>
January	3516	251	3767
February	3138	232	3370
March	3495	262	3757
April	3764	259	4023
May	4019	265	4284
June	5850	232	6082
July	8329	257	8586
August	5757	241	5998
September	6223	242	6465
October	5257	250	5507
November	4981	240	5221
December	4642	247	4889
Total	<u>58971</u>	<u>2978</u>	<u>61949</u>

Total 1959 - 61,949,000 gallons

Total 1958 - 37,088,000 gallons

Domestic Use - 40,074,000 gallons.

Trade Use

Amount supplied by meter during year -

Agricultural - 14,322,000 gallons

Business - 7,553,000 gallons

Total 21,875,000

Number of meters in use at 31.12.59 - 255

Estimated consumption per head of population supplied -

Domestic - 18 gallons per day

Trade - 9 gallons per day.

Water Mains in Parishes as at 31st December 1959

Parish	Size of Main	Length of main	Total
		<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>
Abberley	6" Pumping & Service	0.35	
	4" Service	0.47	
	3" "	2.98	3.80
Astley	10" Pumping	1.39	
	6" Service	2.65	
	4" "	1.27	
	3" "	1.68	6.99
Bransford	4" Service	0.76	
	3" "	2.10	2.86
Broadheath	6" Service	2.46	
	4" "	0.63	
	3" "	3.17	6.26
Broadwas	4" Service	1.97	
	3" "	0.94	2.91
Cotheridge	4" Service	2.07	
	3" "	1.31	3.38
Clifton	3" Pumping	1.47	
	3" Service	.41	1.88
Doddenham	6" Service	0.59	
	3" "	1.45	2.04
Grimley	8" Service	1.78	
	4" "	1.92	
	3" "	2.30	6.00
Hallow	8" Service	0.61	
	6" "	1.55	
	3" "	1.23	3.39
Hillhampton	3" Service	1.43	1.43
Holt	4" Service	1.43	
	3" "	1.91	3.34
Martley	6" Service & Pumping	3.62	
	4" Service	3.76	
	3" "	1.08	8.46
St. John County	4" Service	1.32	
	3" "	1.65	2.97
Shrawley	10" Pumping	1.92	
	4" Service	0.92	
	3" "	1.77	4.61

Carried forward 60.32 miles



Parish	Size of Main	Length of main	Total
		<u>Miles</u>	<u>Miles</u>
	Brought forward		60.32
Wichenford	10" Pumping	1.57	
	8" Service	1.82	
	3" "	1.34	4.73
Witley, Great	6" Pumping	0.53	
	6" Pumping & Service	0.70	
	6" Service	0.55	
	3" "	1.63	3.41
Witley, Little	10" Pumping	1.32	
	4" Service	0.34	
	3" "	0.09	1.75

Total miles of mains in District -70.21

### Comprehensive Scheme

#### Part II

This contract was virtually completed in May when all the mains were put into use in the parishes of Hillhampton, Great Witley and Abberley.

#### Part III

A tender for mainlaying in the remaining parishes was accepted in June and work started in August. By the end of the year some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of main had been laid and put into use in the Bransford area. Some difficulty was experienced initially with the quality of the water from the mains but eventually, after several re-treatments of the mains, satisfactory results were obtained.

During the year discussions started with the Tenbury and Bromyard Rural District Councils for the provision of water to fringe areas at Birchwood, Cradley and High Lane, Lower Sapey. It was agreed in principle that water to the Birchwood area of Cradley should be supplied from the Martley area and that to High Lane, Lower Sapey from the Tenbury area via mains laid by Bromyard Rural District Council in their area.

### Regrouping of Water Undertakings

The draft order for the proposed North-West Worcestershire Water Board was completed but was not approved by all the constituent authorities, water charges being the main cause of disagreement. It would appear unlikely that the Water Board will be in operation before April, 1961 at the earliest.

### General

Three burst mains were repaired during the year at Holt, Astley and Martley.

The rest and pumping levels of the boreholes at Astley remained constant during the year, even during the period of drought when the maximum demand occurred. The peak output of the pumps during this period was 485,000 gallons per day as compared with the average summer output of 225,000 gallons per day.

Samples of water taken from the boreholes for bacteriological examination were found to be fit for drinking purposes, having no coliform bacilli or faecal coli present.

#### Water Supply to Council Houses

No shortage of water was experienced during the year from any of the small boreholes or wells supplying groups of houses but several boreholes have to be used carefully owing to their limited supply. Difficulty has again been experienced with hard water and frequent descaling of pipes and back boilers has to be carried out at some sites.

The following table shows the progress in connecting up Council Houses to the mains supply:-

#### Progress in Supply of Mains Water to Council Houses

<u>Parish</u>		<u>As at 31.12.58</u>		<u>Provided 1959</u>	
		<u>Full Service Standpipe</u>		<u>Full Service Standpipe</u>	
Abberley	- Suffolk Lane			14	
Astley	- Berringtons		4		
	Sandhampton	22			
Broadheath	- Grange Road	49			
	Crown East Lane		6		
Broadwas	- Weston Hill		4		
Clifton	- The Village	12			
	Old Road	6			
	Hope Lane	5			
Cotheridge	- Church Lane	14			
	Otherton Lane	2			
Doddenham	- Darbys Green		6		
Grimley	- Sinton Green	10			
	Walton Lane				4
Hallow	- The Heath	45			
	Ladygo		4		
	Clayhill				8
Holt	- The Heath	20			
Martley	- Jury Lane	34			
	Berrow Green		2		
	Willow Lane				4
	Frickley Lane				4
St. John County	- Crown East		4		
Shrawley	- New Inn Lane		6		
	Rectory Lane		6		
	Pound Meadow				2
Wichenford	- Queen's Estate	30			
Witley, Lt.-	Well Lane	16			
Witley, Gt.-	The Glebe	—	—	14	—
		<u>265</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>
Totals	- House Supply -	291			
	- Standpipes -	64			
		<u>355</u>			



## 5. PUBLIC CLEANSING

### (a) Refuse Collection

No change in the scheme of refuse collection was made during the year and the following collections were made:-

	<u>Fortnightly collection of all house refuse</u>		<u>Two-monthly collection of incombustible refuse</u>
Parishes of:-	Broadheath Hallow Clifton-on-Teme Bransford St. John County Grimley Holt	Parishes of:-	Abberley Astley Cotheridge Doddenham Hillhampton Kenswick Knightwick Lulsley Sapey Pitchard Shelsley Beauchamp Shelsley Kings Shelsley Walsh Shrawley Wichenford Great Witley Little Witley
Parts of Parishes of:-	Alfrick Suckley Martley Leigh		
		Parts of Parishes of:-	Alfrick Martley Leigh Suckley

This scheme of collection is maintained with a labour force of 5 men and two 10 cu.yd., side-loading tipping vehicles.

Consideration was given to a scheme for fortnightly collection over the whole District but the Council decided that, having regard to their heavy financial commitments for water supply and sewerage schemes, the cost of this improvement was too great for it to be carried out at the present time. Further consideration of this scheme is to be given at a later date.

### (b) Refuse Storage

The Council continued to encourage the use of suitable dustbins by selling to the public at cost price plus a small delivery charge. 62 bins were sold during the year but there are still too many premises where refuse is stored in unsuitable containers which are un-hygienic and make emptying difficult.

### (c) Refuse Disposal

The provision of suitable sites for tipping to serve all parts of the District, except the extreme north-western area, is satisfactory and the following tips are now in use:-

Clifton-on-Teme	-	Steps Farm.
Grimley	-	Old Gravel Pit
Hillhampton	-	Dodoak
Leigh	-	Braces Farm
Martley	-	Old Brickyard.



The maintenance of these tips is becoming increasingly difficult as the number of houses in the District increases with a consequent lessening in the time available by the collectors for this work. The cost of suitable covering either by ashes or earth is increasing due to haulage rates and a consequent increase in the cost of maintenance must be expected in the very near future.

## 6. SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Ice-cream

Number of premises registered for manufacture and sale	Nil
Number of premises registered for sale only ... ..	61

Pre-packed ice-cream only is sold from all premises and this is contained in refrigerators; facilities for hand-washing, etc. are provided at all premises.

### Food Premises

The following food premises are in use in the district:-

#### (a) Unregistered

##### Food Shops

Butchers Shops ... ..	2
Other food shops... ..	44
Cafes.. ... ..	3
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses. ... ..	37

#### (b) Registered

Slaughterhouses ... ..	2
Bakehouses ... ..	3
Ice-cream manufacturers.. ... ..	Nil
Ice-cream retailers ... ..	61

### Inspection of Registered Premises

The following visits and inspections of registered and other premises have been carried out during the year:-

Slaughterhouses ... ..	97
Ice-cream manufacturers.. ... ..	Nil
Ice-cream retailers ... ..	30
Butchers Shops ... ..	24
Food Shops... ..	34
Cafes.. ... ..	6
Bakehouses... ..	6
Inns, Hotels and Public Houses.. ... ..	32

Generally speaking, all premises are kept clean and provided with adequate sanitary accommodation and hand washing facilities for the employees.

#### Education in Food Hygiene

Owing to the scattered nature of the district it is impracticable to attempt any courses of lectures in food hygiene. The majority of the food premises in the district are family businesses where hired assistants are not usually employed. Advice and instruction in food hygiene is given during the normal inspections of the premises where it is thought to be necessary.

#### Slaughterhouses

The two slaughterhouses in operation in the district are kept in a satisfactory condition and the standard of slaughtering and quality of meat has been consistently high.

All the animals killed at the slaughterhouses have been examined post mortem and all meat found to be unfit for human consumption was surrendered voluntarily, stained and disposed of to approved dealers.

A table showing the number of animals inspected and those found to be diseased in whole or in part is contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. The absence of disease can be explained by the fact that the butchers have a local family trade only and can only buy in the best quality animals to retain that trade.

#### Milk Production

The duties remaining with the local authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1949, were carried out and all the premises used are satisfactory.

There are no pasteurising plants in the District. 14 dairymen were issued with licences to retail designated milks, all of whom purchase their milk from sources outside the district.

#### Food and Drugs Adulteration

The responsibility for this work rests with the Worcestershire County Council.



## 7. MISCELLANEOUS

### (a) Mortuary Accommodation

A scheme was prepared to convert a garage and store at the Red House, Martley into a mortuary and the work commenced in September and was completed, apart from a few minor items, by the end of the year.

The accommodation provided consists of a main room containing mortuary slab, hospital trolley, washing accommodation and storage cupboards with a viewing bay leading off this room. A waiting room, viewing room and W.C. are approached by a separate entrance.

The Coroner has inspected the premises and has expressed his satisfaction with them.

An attendant has been appointed and his duties include the reception of bodies from the police and the cleaning and maintenance of the building.

### (b) Camps and Moveable Dwellings

Regular inspections of all camping sites and sites for moveable dwellings were made and informal action only was required to keep the sites up to the standard required.

New sites for 12 caravans were licensed during the year, 6 of which were for residential use, the remainder being for holiday use.

### (c) Hop-Pickers Accommodation

Inspections of barracks used to house hop-pickers were made during the few weeks of the picking season.

The majority of hop farms are now mechanised and in consequence the number of pickers again dropped, the figure of 579 showing a drop of 187 on last year's total.

In general the condition of the barracks was satisfactory and only informal action was necessary to effect any improvements that were necessary.

The respective district nurses attended to the health of the pickers and their families and the County Fire Brigade, after inspecting all barracks, were satisfied with the fire precautions.

### (d) Petroleum Acts

The total number of storage licences issued during the year was 72 and the gallonage involved was 70,100.

Two new installations were approved during the year and six licences were discontinued.

Throughout the year inspections and testing of existing installations were carried out as suggested by the new Codes of Practice issued by the Home Office. This work consists of subjecting any tank which has been installed for 20 years or more to a pressure test and subjecting all of the electrical equipment associated with the installations to examination by a qualified engineer. It will be appreciated that this has been a considerable undertaking as each of the petrol stations could afford only to have one or two tanks out of commission at any one time, however each of the stations selling petrol to the public and coming within the twenty year group have now been tested. From nearly 50 tanks tested, 4 were found to be defective and 2 of these had to be written off completely. Numerous small defects were noted during the general inspection and the electrical examination and in each case these have been corrected.



There still remains a number of private storage points on farms and other business premises to be tested and these will be done as soon as possible.

During the year this Council became a member of the West Midlands Petroleum Acts Administration Group which has been formed in an endeavour to unify the requirements imposed throughout this region of the country.

(e) Rodent Control

The contract scheme for treatment of farm and other business premises was continued throughout the District and at the end of the year some 69 contracts had been made. However, response from the farming community was in the main disappointing; there was a general unwillingness to face up to their responsibilities in this matter and it is felt that some measure of inspection and enforcement will be necessary before complete coverage of the District is achieved.

A second rodent operative was engaged during the year but until the contract scheme is more fully developed he is employed for part of his time by other departments.

Routine free treatments of dwellinghouses were continued during the year.

The number of treatments carried out during the year was as follows:-

<u>Type of Premises</u>		<u>Treatments</u>
(i)	Private Dwellings	525
(ii)	Business Premises	31
(iii)	Local Authority sewers	12
(iv)	Local Authority refuse tips	64
(v)	Agricultural Premises	417
		<hr/> 1,049 <hr/>

(f) Means of Escape in case of Fire

Valuable assistance is afforded by the Fire Prevention Officer of the Worcester City and County Fire Brigade by means of inspection reports on factories for this purpose and I am grateful for their advice.

